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## Tear up the orange cards

The United States Passport Office should concern itself with passports, not the keeping of computerized files on persons who might cause the nation embarrassment or trouble. Acknowledgement of the files was made under pressure from Sen. Sam J. Ervin Jr. (D-N.C.) who did much recently to publicize Army snooping on civilians.

Among the categories of files in the Passport Office are ones for "individuals whose actions do not reflect to the credit of the United States abroad," known or suspected Communists and subversives, and a vague thing called

"orange card."

As with the Army peeping, it seems here, too, that some bureaucrats can't resist games of intrigue. Ervin sees such snooping as a nuisance and a threat to basic freedoms. Although we see nothing sinister in the Passport Office files, we agree with him. The files are a waste of time and money and are egregiously presumptuous. Let the FBI, the CIA and similar offices do this work. It is reasonable for the Passport Office to supply the FBI with names of applicants. Other than that, the office should stick to passports.